

Ag Awards Presented At Mifflin Farm-City Banquet

Gail Strock
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
MCVEYTOWN (Mifflin Co.)
— "They are an excellent example of Mifflin County's progressive, conservation-oriented farmers," said Mifflin County Conservation representative James Hostetter of the 1992 Cooperator of the Year Award recipients. Speaking of James and Joe Laughlin, a father and son who farm over 300 acres in Ferguson Valley and nearby Big Ridge, Hostetter added, "Although one cooperator is singled out each year, he is really a symbol for all Mifflin County farmers who believe in and practice resource conservation."



Accepting the Farm Family of the Year Award are fifth generation farmers from Belleville, from left, Mike, Dana, Marlene, and Shawn Smoker.

These remarks were heard by both the farm and nonfarm sectors as families and business owners from both came together to kick off Farm-City Week at a McVeytown Fire Hall banquet.

Awards highlighted the evening.

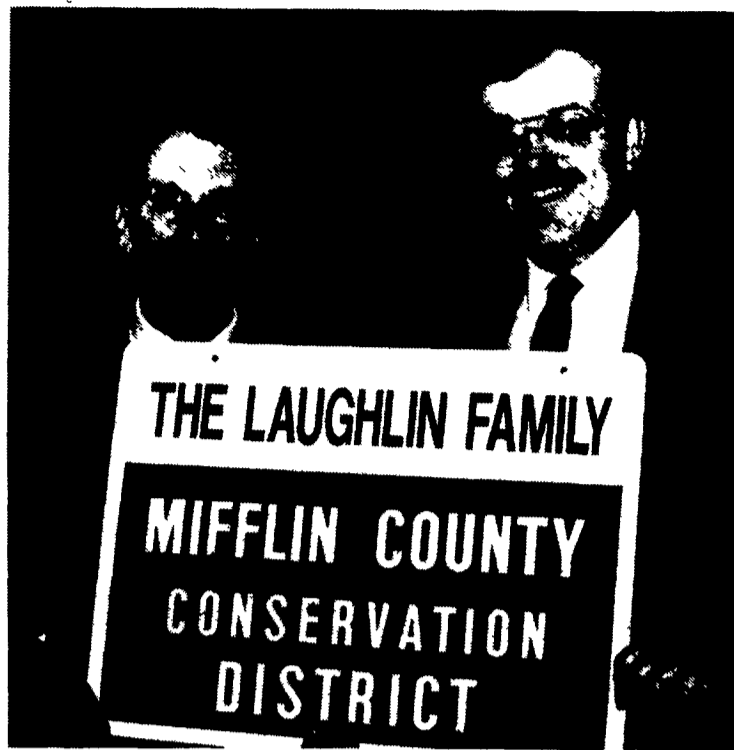
The Mike Smoker family received the Juniata Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Farm Family of the Year Award. The Smokers, who milk 60-65 cows on their Dairy of Distinction, are the

fifth generation (5th) on Hollo-Home Farm near Belleville. Mike Smoker, his wife Marlene, son Shawn, and daughter Dana accepted the award.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service representative Frank Bonson presented a 25-years of service pin to James Hostetter for serving on the ASCS

Board.

Nutrient management technician Mike Stuck presented eight Mifflin County farmers with Chesapeake Bay awards for their conservation practices that help reduce soil run-off and build up in the Chesapeake Bay. Recognized were John L. King, Glenn Casner, Moses Zook, Tim and Joe Dun-



For their efforts to practice conservation to protect the soil and water, Jim Laughlin, left, and son Joe, accept the 1992 Cooperator of the Year Award.

mire, Bill Ammon, Larry Denlinger, Eugene Ranck, and Howard Bonson.

The Goodyear Award went to last year's Cooperator of the Year, David Mitchell.

Betty Mitchell, owner of the Honey Creek Inn in Reedsville,

accepted the Tourist Promotion Award, while Wilson's Gifts and Jewelry owners Paul F. Wilson Sr. and Paul F. Wilson Jr. received the Business Family of the Year Award.

Farm and City gift door prizes rounded out the evening along with featured speaker John Guess.

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Animal manure on the farm has become a perplexing problem in many areas of the country. In some areas, the problem has drawn enough attention that farmers are faced with government imposed restrictions of when manures can be applied, how much and under what conditions. These problems all stem from one central problem: Namely, the manure is not being broken down fast enough. This central problem leads to a host of others such as overwhelming odor and contamination from runoff.

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